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Tomorrow's weather

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Annual cookie contest returns

Deliver six samples of your best holiday cookies to the Finger Lakes Times' office by 5 p.m. Dec. 10 with the recipe, your name and phone number (not published). Prizes for the top three as determined by a panel of judges! Questions? Email scporter@fltimes.com.



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YOUR OPINION

How much of your holiday shopping will be done at locally owned small businesses?

Visit www.fltimes.com and scroll down to answer. A new poll runs each week, and the results appear the following Monday.

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'Examples of great courage and bravery'

Helming honors Ontario County veterans

By MIKE HIBBARD
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CANANDAIGUA — One was captured by the Germans in World War II, was a prisoner of war for a year but later returned home and eventually led the New York State Agricultural Experiment Station in Geneva for more than two decades.

Another served in the Navy during the Vietnam era, later making history by becoming the first female state commander of the American Legion.

Another was in the Army for nearly 20 years, participating in major military actions spanning three decades and being deployed for special operations in Grenada, Panama, Kuwait and Haiti.

Their stories are different, but they and 34 other Ontario County residents have one thing in common — they have



Mike Hibbard / Finger Lakes Times

State Sen. Pam Helming (front, middle) honored a number of Ontario County residents during a veterans recognition event Wednesday at the Canandaigua American Legion.

all been nominated for induction into the New York State Senate Veterans Hall of Fame.

They also were honored Wednesday during a veterans recognition event at the Canandaigua American Legion organized by state Sen. Pam Helming, R-54 of Canandaigua, and her staff.

Helming said each spring, one person from each of the state's 63 Senate districts is in-

ducted into the Hall of Fame. She asked community members for nominations in the 54th District, which includes Ontario, Seneca, Wayne, Cayuga, Monroe and Tompkins counties.

"In my first year in the Senate, only 20 people were nominated. Last year it was just seven," Helming said. "This year we had more than 120, which is wonderful."

Helming also was in Seneca County Tuesday

at the Seneca Falls Legion and will be making similar stops in the other counties in the coming days.

This year's inductee from the 54th District will go into the Hall of Fame in May. The inductee will be notified the month before.

A number of local officials were on hand for Wednesday's ceremony, which included performances of "The Star

■ See COURAGE on Page 7A

Army to probe depot water

Toxic chemicals related to firefighting foam may be worse than originally thought

By DAVID L. SHAW
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ROMULUS — The Army plans to investigate whether toxic chemicals related to the use of firefighting foam at the former Seneca Army Depot may be in groundwater "plumes" in central Seneca County.

Testing of groundwater in three areas determined that levels of perfluorooctanoic acid and perfluorooctane sulfonate — suspected carcinogenic chemicals associated with firefighting foam — are 1,327 times the federal health advisory limit.

New testing will be done in May 2019. The results would be used as the basis for determining whether a remediation program is needed or not, according to Randy Battaglia, environmental coordinator at the former depot.

■ See DEPOT on Page 7A

GUIDANCE FOR SOME YOUNG PUPS

Hobart and William Smith students help provide early training for future guide dogs

By STEVE BUCHIERE
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GENEVA — Students come to Hobart and William Smith Colleges to soak up the knowledge the liberal arts institution offers.

A few four-legged friends on campus are getting an education there as well.

Students who are part of the HWS chapter of Guiding Eyes are raising puppies that — hopefully — will one day help visually impaired people safely get around their communities and homes.

The HWS program was started in 2017 by seniors Katie Valicenti and Liz Anderson. Valicenti said she was inspired to start a program at HWS after seeing her twin sister, Jessie, become a Guiding Eyes dog trainer at Ithaca College.

"So many places and colleges are involved," said Valicenti, a senior from Horseheads in Chemung County. "Why can't it be something that we can do here?"

So she and Anderson, who hails from Allentown, Pa., started a chapter.

While the dogs aren't yet allowed in the on-campus dorms, Valicenti and Anderson were able to get established in one of the theme houses HWS owns as part of the Colleges' alternative residential living facilities. After applying, Guiding Eyes was awarded the Farm



House on St. Clair Street for the 2017-18 school year, and they're back in the house again this school year.

Everyone who lives in the house must agree to having the dogs live there as well, Valicenti noted.

Under the program, students take the canines just about anywhere on campus and off as part of their early training toward becoming guide dogs.

Guiding Eyes, which is based in Yorktown Heights, Westchester County, is just one of a handful of accredited guide-dog organizations in the country. The HWS students are affiliated with the Guiding



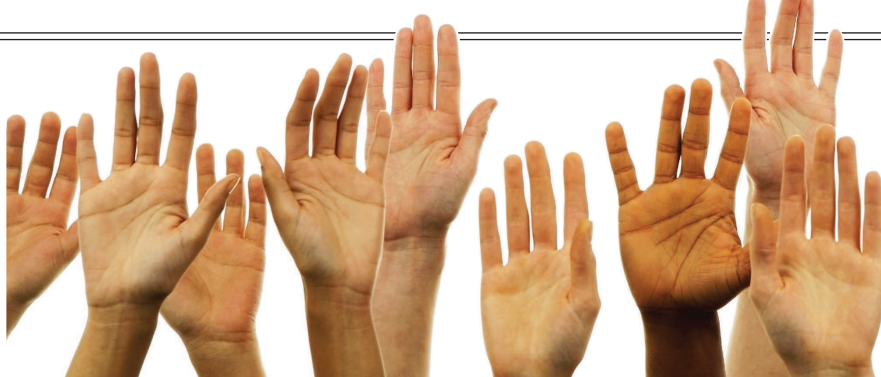
Hobart and William Smith Colleges student Liz Anderson is seen with Guiding Eyes puppy Lacy, who moved on earlier this year for the next level of training to be a guide dog.

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Submitted photo

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